

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 06063 251643Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 AID-20

IGA-02 (ISO) W

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R 251315Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6063

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 6063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,CH, IC

SUBJECT: REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST

SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF RECENT DECISION OF GOVERNMENT OF NIGER TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH PRC, AND THUS TERMINATE LONG-STANDING RELATIONS WITH ROC, THIS IS AN ASSESSMENT OF STATUS OF ROC RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST, ONE OF FEW REMAINING AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH CONTINUES DEIPLOMATIC TIES WITH TAIPEI. PROGNOSIS IS: NO CHANGE LIKELY HERE WITHIN NEAR FUTURE.

1. SINCE NIGER ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING LAST WEEK, THERE HAS BEEN SOME SPECULATION HERE AS TO FUTURE OF ROC RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST. THIS COUNTRY IS NOW ONE OF ONLY EIGHT AFRICAN COUNTRIES STILL HAVING RELATIONS WITH ROC; ONLY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 06063 251643Z

OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES ARE LIBERIA AND GAMBIA; ONLY OTHER

FRANCOPHONE IS CAR. THE SPECULATION EXTENDS AS WELL TO IMPLICATIONS OF NIGER'S ACTION TOWARD CHINAS ON KOREAS, VIETNAMS AND CAMBODIAS. (NOTE THAT SEVERAL AMBASSADORS BASED HERE ARE ALSO ACCREDITED TO NIAMEY).

2. SIGNS WHICH FAVOR CONTINUED IVORY COAST RELATIONS WITH ROC:

(A) PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IS VERY RELUCTANT TO DESERT OLD FRIENDS. HE WAS LAST SIGNIFICANT AFRICAN LEADER TO BREAK WITH ISRAEL, AND THEN UNDER STRONG OAU PRESSURE. THERE IS NO SUCH PRESSURE HERE TO BREAK WITH ROC. HE IS PLEASED WITH AID HE IS NOW RECEIVING FROM ROC, PARTICULARLY IN AGRICULTURE. HE HAS MANY TIMES DECLARED HIMSELF OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM AND TO INVITING IT INTO IVORY COAST VIA POWERFUL COMMUNIST COUNTRY EMBASSIES.

(B) ROC AMBASSADOR T. K. BERNARD JOEI IS ABOUT TO BECOME VICE-DEAN OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN ABIDJAN (WITH DEPARTURE OF TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR). JOEI HAS BEEN HERE NEARLY SIX YEARS. WHILE ROC HAS RELATIONS WITH VERY FEW OTHER GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED HERE, JOEI IS PERSONALLY SO HIGHLY REGARDED AS ASTUTE DIPLOMAT THAT HE IS CALLED ON AND INVITED TO SOCIAL GATHERINGS BY MOST OF DIPCORPS. EVEN FRENCH AMBASSADOR, THE DEAN, INVITED HIM THIS YEAR (FOR FIRST TIME) TO JULY 14 RECEPTION. IN RECENT CONVERSATION JOEI HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ARSENE USHER ASSUAN, LATTER REMARKED THAT "WHEN WE RENEGOTIATE CONVENTION WITH FRANCE, YOU MAY EVEN BECOME DEAN OF DIPCORPS*"

(C) IN JOEI'S VIEW, IVORIANS LOOK ON NIGER'S RECENT SHIFT AS SOMETHING A NEW GOVERNMENT, SEEKING SUBSTANTIAL AID AND SUBJECT TO PRESSURES FROM FELLOW MILITARY GOVERNMENTS IN NEIGHBORING STATES (PARTICULARLY NIGERIA) DID FAIRLY EASILY, WHEREAS IVORIANS HAVE NO REASON TO CHANGE.

3. ONE SIGN WHICH INCREASES POSSIBILITY OF IVORY COAST SHIFT:

(A) GOIC HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH POLAND AND THERE ARE STRONG INDICATIONS OF SUBSEQUENT ACTION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH RUMANIA. WHILE THESE ARE SMALLER COMMUNIST NATIONS, THERE IS SOME FEELING THESE ACTIONS ARE PRELIMINARY TO RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS (BROKEN IN 1969) WITH USSR.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ABIDJA 06063 251643Z

PRC COULD THEORETICALLY FOLLOW.

4. CONCLUSION ON ROC STATUS: THE CONTINUED ABSOLUTE ROLE OF PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN ALL MAJOR POLICY DECISIONS, TOGETHER WITH CLEAR INDICATIONS OF HIS POSITIVE VIEWS ON ROC AND NEGATIVE ONES ON PRC, MAKE CHANGE HIGHLY UNLIKELY AS LONG AS HE REMAINS IN OFFICE.

5. REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM CONTINUE TO CONSIDER

THEIR POSITIONS SOLID IN IVORY COAST. KOREAN AMBASSADOR, WHILE WORRIED BY RECENT EVENTS IN NIAMEY, IS SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH NEW GON (EIGHT VISITS SINCE THE APRIL COUP) AND DOES NOT SEE SAME THINGS HAPPENING TO GON POLICY TOWARD KOREA. VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR GOING TO NIAMEY NEXT WEEK TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TO NEW GOVERNMENT.

6. AS PREVIOUS REPORTED, HOWEVER, THERE IS LITTLE SYMPATHY HERE FOR LON NOL GOVERNMENT IN CAMBODIA AND, TOGETHER WITH UNCERTAINTIES OVER "WHO'S ON FIRST" THERE, WE HAVE GROWING FEELING THAT GOIC MIGHT PULL BACK ITS SUPPORT FROM RKG AT TIME OF NEXT UNGA DEBATE.
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